

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2021

His Excellency Anatoly I. Antonov
Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States of America
Embassy of the Russian Federation
2650 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20007

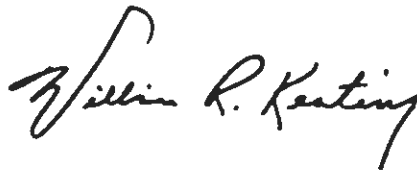
Ambassador Antonov,

We write to express our grave concern about the Russian government's continued detention of U.S. citizen Paul Whelan. Mr. Whelan has been unjustly incarcerated in Russia on trumped up charges for over two years, first in Moscow on pre-trial detention and now in the World War I-era, IK-17 gulag. Throughout his ordeal, multiple levels of the Russian government have refused to provide any evidence to substantiate the charges against Mr. Whelan, ultimately convicting him in a sham secret trial resulting in an inexplicable 16-year sentence. This so-called legal process is offensive, and we are joined together in writing to you to convey our collective outrage at Paul's treatment and demand for his immediate release.

The Russian Federation has made a mockery of justice in this case against Paul. We urge you to advise your government to abide by the obligations that all United Nations members agree to and follow the international legal standards afforded to all persons. Further, we request that while Mr. Whelan remains in your government's custody, he is afforded proper medical care, frequent contact and communications with his elderly parents, family, and friends, and allow for unrestricted visits and communication from the embassies of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Ireland. Finally, and most importantly, we urge that the Government of the Russian Federation immediately releases Paul Whelan, and all other prisoners, such as that of Trevor Reed, unlawfully arrested and incarcerated for political reasons.

We look forward to receiving information in writing as soon as possible regarding your government's plans for the release of Mr. Whelan, Mr. Reed and other political prisoners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William R. Keating". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

William R. Keating
Chair
Subcommittee on Europe, Energy,
the Environment, and Cyber

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/s/

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

/s/

Michael McCaul
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs

/s/

Brian Fitzpatrick
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe, Energy,
the Environment, and Cyber

/s/

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

/s/

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

/s/

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

/s/

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

/s/

Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress

/s/

Young Kim
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

/s/

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter Meijer
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
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/s/

August Pfluger
Member of Congress

/s/

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

/s/

Tim Walber
Member of Congress